

(b) Off-road vehicle management plans shall provide vehicle management direction aimed at resource protection, public safety of all users, minimizing conflicts among users, and provide for diverse use and benefits of the National Forests. Designation of areas and trails shall be in accordance with the following:

(1) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resources of the public lands.

(2) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats.

(3) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.

(4) Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated Wilderness Areas or Primitive Areas.

However, this does not preclude the use of any fire, military, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle for emergency purposes, or the use of any combat or combat support vehicle for national defense purposes, or registered motorboats, or vehicle use expressly authorized by the Chief, Forest Service, under a permit, lease, license, or contract.

#### **§ 295.3 Public participation.**

The public shall be provided an opportunity to participate in the process of allowing, restricting, or prohibiting use of areas and trails to one or more specific vehicle types off forest development roads. Sixty days advance notice will be given to allow for public review of proposed or revised designations. In emergency situations, temporary designations up to one year in length may be made or revised without public participation if needed to protect the resources and/or to provide for public safety.

#### **§ 295.4 Public information.**

In addition to the requirements of 36 CFR 261.51, information and maps will

be published and made available to the public, describing:

- (a) The regulation of vehicular use.
- (b) Time periods when use is allowed, restricted or prohibited.
- (c) The type of vehicle regulated.

#### **§ 295.5 Monitoring effects of vehicle use off National Forest System roads.**

The effects of use by specific types of vehicles off roads on National Forest System lands will be monitored. If the results of monitoring, including public input, indicate that the use of one or more vehicle types off roads is causing or will cause considerable adverse effects on the factors and resource values referred to in § 295.2, the area or trail suffering adverse effects will be immediately closed to the responsible vehicle type or types until the adverse effects have been eliminated and measures have been implemented to prevent future recurrence as provided in 36 CFR part 261. Forest Supervisors may delegate immediate closure authority to District Rangers or other forest officers in order to facilitate timely actions to meet these objectives. Designations, use restrictions, and operating conditions will be revised as needed to meet changing conditions.

#### **§ 295.6 Revision of off-road vehicle management plans.**

Forest Supervisors will annually review off-road vehicle management plans and temporary designations implemented since the last annual review. If the plan needs revision, the public will be given the opportunity to participate in the review as stated in § 295.3.

### **PART 296—PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: UNIFORM REGULATIONS**

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